

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 /093 W

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R 251431 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9943

CONFIDENTIAL STOCKHOLM 1383

E. O.11652: ADS, DECLAS 4/30/74

TAGS: PFOR US SW

SUBJECT: SECRETARY' S ANNUAL REPORT; US/ SWEDISH RELATIONS

REF: STATE 073787

SUMMARY: PUBLIC REACTION TO SECRETARY' S ANNUAL REPORT WAS LIMITED, DUE PARTLY TO PUBLICATION AT BEGINNING OF LONG EASTER HOLIDAY. MEDIA ATTENTION FOCUSED ON SECRETARY' S STATEMTN ON SWEDEN AND NEWSPAPERS TOOK OCCASION TO DISCUSS CURRENT STATUS OF US/ SWEDISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. PUBLIC ATTENTION TO PUBLICATION OF SECRETARY' S ANNUAL REPORT HAS BEEN LIMITED, PARTLY DUE TO FACT THAT REPORT MADE PUBLIC AT BEGINNING OF FOUR- DAY EASTER HOLIDAY WHEN NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED ONLY TWICE AND NEWS COVERAGE IN ALL MEDIA TENDS TO BE VERY THIN.

2. IN BRIEF TREATMENT IN RADIO AND TV THURSDAY AND IN PRESS ON SATURDAY THE INTEREST UNDERSTANDABLY FOCUSED ON SECRETARY' S STATEMENT ON SWEDEN. STORIES CARRIED SUCH HEADLINES AS " ROGERS DEPLORES SWEDISH CRITICISM" OR " NO INDICATION OF IMPROVED RELATIONS US/ SWEDEN."

3. STOCKHOLM MORNING PAPERS DAGENS NYHETER ( INDEPENDENT)  
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AND SVENSKA DAGBLADET ( CONSERVATIVE) AGAIN TOOK THE OCCASION TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT STATUS OF US/ SWEDEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. BOTH PAPERS REFERRED TO AN ITEM IN THE " US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT" TO THE EFFECT THAT WASHINGTON HAD SEEN RECENT OPINION POLLS IN SWEDEN SHOWING THAT " PRIME MINISTER PALME IS IN DEEP POLITICAL TROUBLE" ON DOMESTIC ISSUES AND THAT US THEREFORE IS TAKING A " WAIT AND SEE" ATTITUDE. DAGENS NYHETER QUOTED A STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCE AS SAYING THAT ANY MOVEMENT ON THE AMBASSADORIAL QUESTION IS " VERY UNLIKELY BEFORE SUMMER." DAGENS NYHETER CONCLUDED STORY WITH THE FULL TEXT OF SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ON SWEDEN. SVENSKA DAGBLADET NOTED THAT THE SECRETARY IN HIS 743- PAGE REPORT GAVE EXACTLY TEN LINES TO THE RELATIONS TO SWEDEN , " INDICATING THAT THE QUESTION OF US/ SWEDISH RELATIONS ARE NOT A MAJOR OR HOT POLITICAL ISSUE IN WASHINGTON EVEN IF SOME PROMINENT SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES ARE SHOWING INTEREST.

4. BOTH PAPERS SPECULATED ABOUT A RETURN TO SWEDEN BY DCM JOHN GUTHRIE, WITH A DEPARTMENT SOURCE QUOTED AS SAYING IF GUTHRIE RETURNS IT IS A PURELY PRACTICAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER WHICH SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN ANY POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

5. USIS PROVIDED TEXT OF " INTRODUCTORY COMMENT" AND " EUROPE" SECTION OF REPORT TO KEY MEDIA AND GOVERNMENT OFFICERS ON " EARLY WATCH" BASIS GOOD FRIDAY. LACK OF COMMENTARIES OR EDITORIALS ON OVERALL SUBSTANCE OF REPORT THUS FAR DISAPPOINTING BUT MORE MAY BE FORTHCOMING AS JOURNALISTS RETURN TO STOCKHOLM FROM EASTER VACATION. MANY SWEDISH OFFICIALS ON VACATION UNTIL MAY 2. EMBASSY WILL RELAY OFFICIAL REACTION INCLUDING ANY FROM FOREIGN MINISTER WHEN RECEIVED.

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**TAGS:** PFOR, SW, US, n/a  
**To:** EUR  
**SECSTATE WASHDC**  
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